

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 953
By Langster

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Maurice Fitzgerald, Sr.,
for his dedication and commitment to the youth
of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those coaches and teachers who have performed their duties with
uncommon devotion and enthusiasm and, through their tireless dedication, have established
themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Maurice Fitzgerald, Sr., a teacher and
football coach at Pearl-Cohn High School; and

WHEREAS, a four-year letterman in collegiate football, Maurice Fitzgerald obtained his
Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Tennessee State University, and he graduated
with a Master's degree in Education from Trevecca College; and

WHEREAS, during his estimable career as a Head Football Coach at Pearl-Cohn High
School, Maurice Fitzgerald claimed back-to-back Tennessee State High School Football
Championships in 1996 and 1997; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Coach Fitzgerald was named Coach
of the Year by the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association in 1991, 1997, 1998, and 2001,
Coach of the Year by the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association in 1996 and 1997,
Region 6-A Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2002, the Tennessean All Mid-State Coach of the
Year in 1998, the Region 6 Warren Dunn Coach of the Year in 1995 and 1996, the Walter
Nippers Civitan Coach of the Year in 1996, the Northwest Civitan Club Coach of the Year in
1997, and Coach of the Week by the Tennessee Titans in 1998 and 2005; he also received the
Phi Delta Kappa Salute to Excellence Award in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Coach Fitzgerald has recorded 105 wins against only 77 losses, and he has the second most playoff victories among Metro-Nashville football coaches with 15; and

WHEREAS, raw statistics, however impressive they may be, cannot come close to measuring Maurice Fitzgerald's value as a coach and teacher; he is an exceptional motivator and mentor who has had an immeasurable impact upon his players and students; and

WHEREAS, Coach Fitzgerald's achievements as a football coach are only surpassed by his successes and achievements as an educator and mentor; Mr. Fitzgerald was named as the Teacher of the Year in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Maurice Fitzgerald has volunteered his time and talents to numerous estimable youth organizations, including Backfield In Motion, Time To Rise, Realsports Leadership Academy, I Have a Future, and the Charles Davis Foundation; he has also donated his expertise and experience as a coach, working with the West Nashville Broncos, GrayMar Football, Parkwood Baseball, and AAU Basketball; and

WHEREAS, Coach Fitzgerald recently founded a non-profit organization called In Full Motion which seeks to address the academic problems that plague inner city students and schools, including low passage rates on high school exit exams, low scores on college entrance exams, and staggering high school drop-out rates; and

WHEREAS, In Full Motion primarily helps inner-city and disadvantaged students prepare for and pay for the ACT test, and In Full Motion also provides educational services for single mothers, academic tutoring, vitamins and supplements, and scholarship assistance; and

WHEREAS, Coach Maurice Fitzgerald boasts a ninety percent graduation rate among his football players, serving as a testament to his tireless commitment and his abilities as a coach and teacher; and

WHEREAS, his many professional and civic accomplishments aside, Coach Fitzgerald is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Cynthia, and their marriage has been blessed with two sons, Maurice, Jr., and Marcus; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Coach Fitzgerald always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, Maurice Fitzgerald is a member of the St. Luke Primitive Baptist Church, where he faithfully serves as a Deacon and Assistant Director of the St. Luke Council; and

WHEREAS, Maurice Fitzgerald, Sr., exemplifies the unquestionable character and stalwart determination that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Maurice Fitzgerald upon his tremendous success as Head Football Coach at Pearl-Cohn High School, commend him for his dutiful service to the underprivileged youth of the State of Tennessee, and wish him every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.